

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

**LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS**

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A shelf comprising upright columns and first and second horizontally-extending bars having ends connected to the columns and the improvements comprising:

the column comprising at least first and second side walls each defining of the  
5 first and second side walls having at least one first hole, a first rib being formed on  
the side wall adjacent the each of the at least one first hole;

the first bar being arranged in a first horizontal direction with the an end  
thereof connected to the first side wall of the column, the end of the first bar forming  
an end tab in which having at least one first hook is formed and sized to fit into a first  
10 side wall hole of the at least one the first hole of one of the side walls, the first side  
wall, the first hook comprising a surface in which having a second rib is formed, the  
second rib receivingly engageable with engaging the first rib adjacent to the first side  
wall hole to strength the strengthen a connection between the end of the first bar  
and the column;

15 the second bar being arranged in a second horizontal direction with the an end  
thereof connected to the second side wall of the column, the end of the second bar forming an end tab in which having at least one second hook is formed and sized to fit into the a second side wall hole of the at least one first hole of another  
20 one of the side walls, the second side wall, the second hook comprising a surface  
in which having a third rib is formed, the third rib receivingly engageable with engaging the first rib to strength the adjacent to the second side wall hole to  
strengthen a connection between the end of the second bar and the column, the second bar forming a support flange.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the side wall defines a plurality of first holes adjacent to and spaced from each other, each of the at least one first hole of the first side wall is adjacent to and spaced from one of the at least one first hole of the second side wall.

Claim 3. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first hole has an inverted trapezoidal shape having a narrowed lower portion.

Claim 4. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the first rib of the column is raised.

Claim 5. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second rib of the first hook of the first bar is recessed.

Claim 6. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the third rib of the second hook of the second bar is recessed.

Claim 7. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising at least one positioned on and supported by the support flanges of the second bars.

Claim 8. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the end tabs of the first and second bars each define a second hole whereby when the first and second hooks of the first and second bars are fit into the first holes, the second holes align with next ones of the first holes.

Claim 9. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 8 further comprising a pin extending through each of the second holes and the associated first hole.

Claim 10. (Original) The shelf as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the pin comprises an L-shaped body and an expanded portion formed at an end of the L-shaped body, the expanded portion being larger than the second hole.